Use of alternate fuel

†1205. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been given about encouraging ethanol and bio-diesel in comparison to traditional fuels like petrol and diesel in order to promote alternative sources of fuel;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken regarding blending of ethanol or users of bio-diesel; and

(c) the plan of Government to use there alternative sources of fuel on large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Government of India has given top priority for promotion and use of bio-fuels, which included bio-diesel and bio-ethanol. Considering the importance of promotion and use of bio-fuels for transportation, stationery and other applications, the Govenment of India has issued a Notification in July, 2006 giving specific responsibilities to various Union Ministries and Departments. The Government emphasises use of non-edible oils such as Jatropha curcas, Pongamia Pinnata oils, etc. for production of bio-diesel and use of forest & non-forest wastelands for plantation of non-edible oil seed bearing plants.

(b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas vide Gazette Notification No. G.S.R. 580(E) dated 20.9.2006 has directed that subject to commercial viability, oil marketing companies shall sell 5 percent ethanol blended petrol, as per Bureau of Indian Standards specification, in the notified 20 States and 4 Union Territories, comprising of the entire country except North Eastern States, J&K, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep w.e.f. 1.11.2006. Oil Marketing Companies are procuring ethanol from indigenous producers through open tenders with validity for three years extendable by two more years. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) decided on 9.10.2007 to make 10% blending operational from October, 2007 and thereafter mandatory from October 2008.

To encourage production of bio-diesel in the counry, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas announced a Bio-diesel Purchase Policy, in October 2005, effective 1.1.2006. The policy has identified 20 purchase centres of the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) all over the country. The OMCs would purchase bio-diesel meeting the standards prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), from those bio-diesel manufacturers who register with them after satisfying the technical specifications, at a specified delivered price. Depending upon felt need and preparedness, the OMCs could also open more purchase centres.

(c) The Ministry of new & Renewable Energy has sponsored R&D projects on bio-fuels to some leading R&D Institutions. Process parameters for production of bio-diesel from Jatropha curcas (Ratanjot) and Pongamia Pinnata (Karanja) have been optimized. Field trials on diesel car have been carried out with different levels of blend of bio-diesel produced from Jatropha and Pongamia with diesel. The vehicles response has been found to be comparable with diesel vehicles. A 200 litre capacity per batch-diesel reactor has been designed, fabricated and developed.

†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*